

Message Text

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TAGS AORG

SUBJ GENEVA GROUP-WORKING PARTY ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS

REF GENEVA 6349

1. WORKING PARTY COMPRISING US CHAIRMAN PLUS CANADIAN, FRG AND JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVES CALLED ON CHAIRMAN OF INTERORGANIZATIONAL BOARD (UNESCO D/DG) FOBES IN PARIS ON DEC 7, 1973 TO DISCUSS STATUS OF IN-DEPTH STUDY ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS BEING UNDERTAKEN PURSUANT TO DECISION OF 55TH ECOSOC.

2. DISCUSSION COMMENCED BY BRIEF RESUME BY WORKING PARTY OF BACKGROUND EVENTS INCLUDING REFERENCE TO 10TH CONSULTATION AGREEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT, GENEVA GROUP CO-CHAIRMEN EFFORTS TO PLACE QUESTION OF GUIDELINES FOR IOB ON CPC/ACC AGENDA, ACC RECOMMENDATION TO ECOSOC FOR IN-DEPTH STUDY AND THE UNANIMOUS DECISION OF ECOSOC.

3. WORKING PARTY THEN NOTED ITS CLOSE INTEREST IN PROGRESS OF STUDY AND ITS CONTACTS WITH IOB SECRETARIAT AND THE CHAIRMAN

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OF THE IOB REVIEW PANEL. IT EXPRESSED CONCERN IF, AS REPORTED,

CERTAIN DECISIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ACC'S
PREP COM AND THE IOB REVIEW PANEL WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT
OF RESTRICTING THE STUDY (AS REPORTED PARA TWO REFTEL). IT
WAS THE VIEWPOINT OF THE WORKING PARTY THAT THE STUDY IN QUESTION
SHOULD COMPRISE THE MOST COMPLETE RESPONSE TO ECOSOC
DECISION POSSIBLE.

4. FOBES GAVE DETAILED HISTORY OF IOB, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH
HE QUESTIONED WHETHER DECISION TO CREATE IOB HAD BEEN A GOOD
ONE, AND REITERATED DIFFICULTY FACED BY ACC IN RESPONDING TO
ECOSOC DECISION WHICH, BECAUSE OF FUNDAMENTAL NATURE OF ITS
REQUIREMENTS, MIGHT INVOLVE BASIC CHANGES IN THE PROCEDURES
AND ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN UN SYSTEM. HE SAID
THAT INITIAL DRAFT OF IN-DEPTH STUDY PREPARED BY HANS DRUCKS,
IOB DIRECTOR, HAD IMPLIED SERIOUS CRITICISM OF THE ORGANIZATION
AND PROCEDURES OF THE UN SYSTEM AND WOULD HAVE SUGGESTED
THAT THE AGENCIES COULD MAKE CHANGES IN THEIR ESTABLISHED
WAY OF DOING THINGS WHICH, IN FACT, THEY COULD NOT DO WITHOUT
ALTERING THEIR INTER-RELATIONSHIPS AND INFRINGING ON THEIR
INDEPENDENCE AND WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION BY THEIR RESPECTIVE
GOVERNING BODIES. SUCH A LINE OF STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS
WAS CLEARLY BEYOND THE COMPETENCE OF IOB.

5. GOBES AGREED THAT THE REPORT TO ECOSOC AS NOW PLANNED
SHOULD BE AUGMENTED TO INCLUDE A LISTING OF STEPS OR MEASURES
WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO RESPOND AT LEAST IN PART TO THE
REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN THE ECOSOC DECISION. HE ENDORSED
A PROPOSAL OF WORKING PARTY THAT REPORT SHOULD INCLUDE
SUGGESTIONS AS TO CONSTRUCTIVE MEASURES THAT COULD BE SUPPORTED
BY MEMBER COUNTRIES AT MEETINGS OF AGENCIES' GOVERNING
BODIES WHICH COULD ADVANCE THIS CONCEPT. FOBES DWELT AT
LENGTH ON IMPOSSIBILITY OF ANY REAL PROGRESS IN THE
ABSENCE OF APPROPRIATE ACTION BY SUCH BODIES. (COMMENT:
IT APPEARS TO BE A CHICKEN OR EGG QUESTION I.E. WHETHER ACC
CAN MAKE PROPOSALS TO ECOSOC CALLING FOR CHANGES THAT WOULD
HAVE TO BE SUPPORTED IN AGENCIES' GOVERNING BODIES WITHOUT
GOVERNING BODIES FIRST HAVING AUTHORIZED ACC TO MAKE THEM. IT
SEEMS CLEAR TO WORKING PARTY THAT IF ACC REALLY WANTED TO MAKE
PROGRESS IN THIS DIRECTION THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM MIGHT NOT
LOOM SO LARGE).

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6. FOBES ALSO OF OPINION (IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM JAPANESE
REPRESENTATIVE) THAT A JOINT APPROACH BY GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS
IN NEW YORK TO U/SYG DAVIDSON AND TO A/SYG NARASIMHAN
ON THE NEED FOR COMPLIANCE WITH ECOSOC DECISION WOULD BE
USEFUL AND DESIRABLE. BASSIN

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